Please amend the present application as follows:

__Claims__

The following is a copy of Applicant's claims that identifies language being added with underlining ("___") and language being deleted with strikethrough ("———") or brackets ("[[ ]]"), as is applicable:

1.　　(Currently amended) A method for controlling program installation on a computing device, the method comprising:

an installer program that executes on the computing device determining the ~~configuration of an existing program that executes~~ type of an original operating system currently installed on the computing device;

the installer program that executes on the computing device determining the ~~configuration of a new program~~ type of a new operating system that ~~is to be installed~~ a user is attempting to install on the computing device to replace the ~~existing program~~ original operating system from information stored within a software package that comprises the new program operating system;

the installer program that executes on the computing device ~~determining~~ comparing on the computing device the types of the original and new operating systems to determine whether installation of the new ~~program~~ operating system is authorized ~~through comparison of the configurations of the new and existing programs~~; and

the installer program that executes on the computing device preventing installation of the new ~~program~~ operating system if ~~installation is not authorized~~ the types are not the same.

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2.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ <u>further comprising the installer program</u> determining the ~~configuration of an existing program comprises determining at least one of a program type and~~ version~~s, and determining the configuration of a new program comprises determining at least one of a program type and version~~ <u>of the original operating system and the new operating system</u>.

3.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the ~~configuration of an existing program~~ <u>type of an original operating system</u> comprises determining the ~~configuration of a program~~ <u>type of an original operating system</u> that is embedded in solid-state memory of the computing device.

4.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the ~~configuration of an existing program~~ <u>type of an original operating system</u> comprises determining the ~~configuration~~ <u>type</u> of an operating system that is embedded in re-writable, solid-state memory of a terminal computer.

5.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the ~~configuration of an existing program~~ <u>type of an original operating system</u> comprises reading ~~configuration~~ information stored in a management interface of the computing device.

6.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the ~~configuration of an existing program~~ <u>type of an original operating system</u> comprises reading ~~a program type and version~~ <u>information</u> from an original equipment manufacturer (OEM) string of a desktop management interface (DMI) of the computing device.

7.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the ~~configuration of a new program~~ <u>type of a new operating system</u> comprises reading ~~configuration~~ information from a header associated with the new ~~program~~ <u>operating system</u>.

8-14. (Canceled)

15.   (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium that stores a installer program, the installer program comprising:

logic configured to execute on a user computer and determine on the user computer the type ~~and version~~ of an existing operating system ~~embedded in memory of~~ installed on the user computer;

logic configured to execute on the user computer and determine on the user computer the type ~~and version~~ of a new operating system that has been downloaded to the user computer;

logic configured to execute on the user computer and compare on the user computer the types ~~and versions~~ of the new and existing operating systems;

logic configured execute on the user computer and to determine ~~on the user computer whether~~ that installation of the new operating system is not authorized ~~based upon the comparison~~ when the types are not the same; and

logic configured to execute on the user computer and prevent installation of the new operating system ~~on the user computer if~~ when it is determined that installation is not authorized.

16.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 15, wherein the logic configured to determine the type ~~and version~~ of an existing operating system comprises logic configured to read configuration information stored in a management interface of the computing device.

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17. (Currently amended) The system of claim 15, wherein the logic configured to determine the type ~~and version~~ of a new operating system comprises logic configured to read configuration information from a header associated with the new operating system.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Original) The system of claim 15, further comprising logic configured to install the new operating system and replace the existing operating system when installation is authorized.

20. (Currently amended) A computing device, comprising:

a processor; and

memory comprising ~~an~~ a previously-installed ~~existing~~ operating system, a management interface that comprises ~~configuration~~ information that describes the type and version of the ~~existing~~ previously-installed operating system, and an installer program configured to (i) determine the ~~configuration~~ type of the ~~existing~~ previously-installed operating system from the ~~configuration~~ information of the management interface, (ii) determine the ~~configuration~~ type of a new operating system ~~that is to~~ with which a user is attempting to replace the ~~existing~~ previously-installed operating system from information stored within a software package that contains the new operating system, (iii) compare the types of the new and previously-installed operating systems and determine ~~whether~~ that installation of the new operating system is not authorized

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through comparison of the configurations if the types of the new and existing previously-installed operating systems are not the same, and (iv) prevent installation of the new operating system if it is determined that installation is not authorized.

21.   (Currently amended) The device of claim 20, wherein the memory comprises re-writable, solid-state memory and wherein the existing previously-installed operating system is embedded within the solid-state memory.

22.   (Currently amended) The device of claim 20, wherein the management interface comprises a desktop management interface (DMI) and the configuration information is stored in an original equipment manufacturer (OEM) string contained within the DMI.

23.   (Canceled)

24.   (Original) The device of claim 20, wherein the computing device is a terminal computer that does not comprise a hard drive.

25.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

the computing device receiving the software package from a software source via a network, wherein the software package contains the installer program;

the computing device identifying the installer program contained in the software package; and

the computing device installing the installer program on the computing device prior to determining whether installation of the new program is authorized.

26.   (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the installer program comprises part of a software package that is configured for download to the user computer, the software package further including the new operating system such that the installer program will be run on the user computer when the new operating system is downloaded to the user computer and a user attempts to install the new operating system on the user computer.

27.   (Previously presented) The computing device of claim 20, wherein the installer program comprises part of the software package such that the installer program will be run on the user computer when the new operating system is downloaded to the user computer from a software source and a user attempts to install the new operating system on the computing device.